

Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24, 2021, 5 p.m.

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

*Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.*

Please silence cell phones.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"The prince of bliss came into the darkest hour in quiet and silent light."

Madeleine L'Engle

PRELUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lewis Redner

Gospel Quartet

arr. Carl Strommen

Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums;
and Kris Hansen, trumpet, flugelhorn and vocals

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The prophets have proclaimed it
and the angels have announced it:
Unto us a child is born. Unto us a savior is given.
Glory to God in the highest!

All: And on earth peace, goodwill.

One: Go tell it on the mountain.

All: Go tell it in the city.

One: This is good news of great joy.

All: Jesus Christ is born!

** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

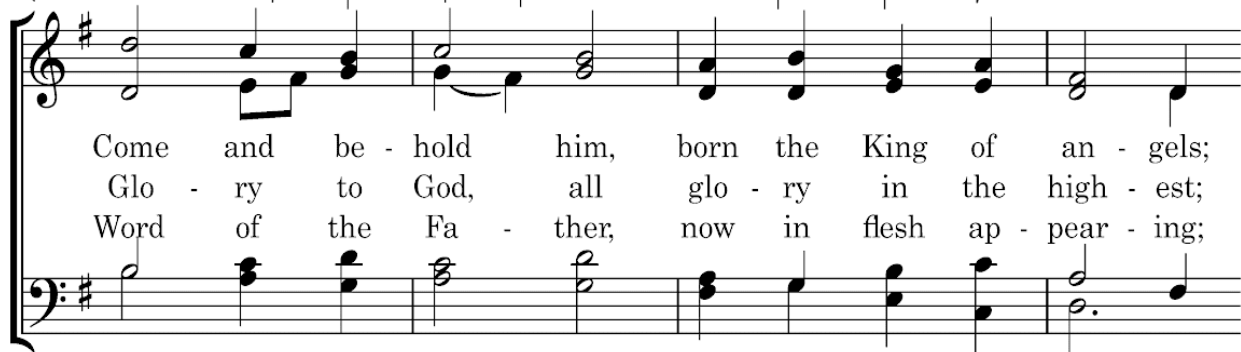
vv. 1 & 2




1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, —



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - - le - hem;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven — a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee — be all glo - - ry given;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, — Christ, — the Lord!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

THE PROPHECY FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 9: 2; 6–7

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Breanna and Todd Coe, soloists

O Holy Night!

The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees,
Oh, hear the angel voices
Oh, night divine;
Oh, night when Christ was born.
Oh, night divine.
Oh, night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Fall on your knees . . .

THE ANGELIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 1: 26-35; 38

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
And the moun-tains in re - ply Echo - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
Glo - - - - - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -
- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first two staves contain the main melody with lyrics. The third staff begins a long, sweeping melisma on the word 'Gloria'. The fourth staff continues the melody with lyrics and another melisma on 'Gloria'. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a final melisma on 'Gloria'.

THE FULFILLMENT IN THE GOSPEL

Luke 2: 1; 3-7

CAROL

Away in a Manger

A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky — looked
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the main melody with lyrics. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics. The third staff concludes the piece with lyrics.

THE SHEPHERDS VISIT

Luke 2: 8-16

CAROL

The First Nowell

v. 1

1. The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
2. And by the light of that same star Three

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In
wise men came from coun - try far; To

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
seek for a king was their in - tent, And to fol - low the

night that was so deep. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
star wher - ev - er it went. - ell, Now - ell, Born is the king of Is - ra - el.

THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI

Matthew 2: 1-12

CAROL

We Three Kings

v. 1



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and God and



tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain,
crown him a - gain, King for - e - ver; ceas - ing ne - ver;
De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing, voi - ces rais - ing,
gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,
sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



fol - low - ing yon - der star.
o - ver us all to reign.
wor - ship - ing God on high. O ——— star of won - der, star of light,
sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
sounds through the earth and skies.



star with roy - al beau - ty bright, west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

THE WORD BECOMES FLESH

John 1: 1-5, 9-14

CAROL

What Child Is This?

v. 1



1. What child is this, who laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is sleep-ing?
2. Why lies the Child in man-ger bare where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3. Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herdswatch are keep-ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.



This, this the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

CAROL

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -

- ceive her king; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, —

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And

sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

We are giving every dollar of this evening's offering away. All money collected will be given to help spread nonviolence. The Institute for Nonviolence Chicago responds to every shooting and homicide in Chicago's most distressed communities.

You can give to the Christmas Eve Offering online by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/christmas-eve

Or through Zelle to giving@spucc.org, with memo: Christmas Eve



OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Bradley Sowash

St. Arbucks Quartet

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Lord of Lords appear.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

Jeff Carlson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The pastors will light the candles of those seated on the aisle. Worshipers will pass the light to each other down the row.

* CAROL

Silent Night

vv. 1 & 2

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child, Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, — Sleep in heav - en - ly peace. —
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! — Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! —
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, — Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. —

* BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata from Symphony V
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Charles Marie Widor

Tonight's offering will save lives.

We are giving every dollar of this evening's offering away. All money collected will be given to help spread peace and nonviolence on the West and South Sides. The Institute for Nonviolence Chicago responds to every shooting and homicide in Chicago's most distressed communities. They provide immediate crisis intervention and ongoing support, workforce development and conflict mediation to prevent future acts of violence, and they do it with a spirit of love. Nonviolence Chicago helps to end the cycle of violence in our communities through the principles and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lives are saved everyday through this important work. Visit www.nonviolencechicago.org to learn more.

Please give generously through the offering plate or online by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/christmas-eve

Or through Zelle to giving@spucc.org, with memo: Christmas Eve



TONIGHT'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson, Benny VanDerburgh

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Holy Family: Kristi Noonan, Mary; Brendan Noonan, Joseph; Mika Noonan, Jesus; Jackson Noonan, The Star of Bethlehem

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Mary Brown, Ninon Freeman, Fred Pearson

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Streaming Service Team: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner, Chuck Kent

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE

As the year draws towards its end, I'd like to take a moment to thank the RefugeeOne team here at St. Pauls for their outpouring of support for our soon-to-arrive family. More than 80 folks have signed on to help in some way. Their dedication and support exemplify one of St. Pauls' mantras: "No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." On behalf of the team, have happy, safe and blessed holidays! If you have any questions, please contact Mark Pellegrino, jjmarkp@yahoo.com.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Each year in the U.S., 25-30 million real Christmas trees are sold. For every tree harvested, one to three seedlings are planted. The Christmas trees currently growing on 350,000 acres of green space are taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, helping to clean our air and slow climate change. Artificial trees last many years, but once unusable, they go into landfills where they never biodegrade! So please use and recycle a real tree. There are 4,000+ local tree recycling programs in the U.S. Here is a guide to this year's tree recycling opportunities in Chicago:
www.recyclebycity.com/chicago/brief/christmas-tree-recycling

The Green Team welcomes your input, participation and ideas! Help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: God calls us to care for creation. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro are co-chairs. If interested or to offer suggestions, email Jan at jan.fraccaro@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JAN 16 - POLAR PEACE MARCH - Following 10 a.m. Worship

After the service, join our friends and neighbors as we honor the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and show the city how all of our streets are connected. Help UCAN achieve its mission of violence prevention and treatment for traumatized youth in our communities. Register at: polarpeacemarch.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWERS – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers! Sign up at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078968

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our new portal for the Saint Pauls community. See our calendar, register for events, update your contact information, join and view our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP) – We are seeking **CEP Laundry volunteers on Saturday mornings**. One volunteer is needed each week to greet street-based guests and launder their clothes on site at St. Pauls from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you have any interest in **cooking in-person** meals for homeless neighbors in the coming months, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

CONNECTORS reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com.

EMAIL SIGN-UP – Are you new to St. Pauls and want to get more connected? You can go to spucc.org to fill out our virtual fellowship card to begin receiving our weekly email and special congregational emails, introduce yourself and request more information about our programs!

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS – The Emergency Contact Form developed by the Connectors has been updated. You may follow this link for additional information and to consider whether this form could be useful for you: spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271.

FAITH & PUBLIC ISSUES – Help us connect our faith to critical public issues. Do you wish you knew more from a faith perspective about current issues that are important to our public life? Racism, climate change, immigration, to name a few? FPI programs provide opportunities to ask questions, help us understand issues in depth, and discuss possible action. The FPI Task Force plans these programs and we could use your ideas. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for information about meetings.

GREEN TEAM – Help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: God calls us to care for creation. The Green Team welcomes your input, participation and ideas. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro are co-chairs. If interested or to offer suggestions, email Jan at jan.fraccaro@gmail.com.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We are now accepting applications for 2021. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

OUTREACH & BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls O&B Committee would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, JenniferLKew@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

SAINT PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at jenluerssen@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the distribution list at eepurl.com/gQ4Eg1, or look out for future events announced in the bulletin calendar.

SAINT PAULS TOGETHER – Our Facebook Group, “Saint Pauls Together,” is for St. Pauls Members and Friends to connect and share uplifting thoughts and stories. Check out our Facebook Page to request an invitation if you’re a member or friend!

SARAH’S SIBS are back and gather every Wednesday morning to make and distribute 40 bag lunches to our homeless neighbors. You are most welcome to come to the church kitchen at 9:30 a.m. and lend a hand.

SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the 10 a.m. in-person worship service each week to read the scripture passage of the day. Learn more and sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1079008

SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) invites you to join the journey toward racial justice through educational opportunities, resources, and actions as we seek to live our faith in an age of injustice. For more information contact Cindy Ball at cindyball11@gmail.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

SUNDAY SCHOOL – If you plan to have your child participate in Sunday School this year, we ask that you please register them. This is a one-time registration to let us know that you intend to have your child participate so we can prepare the correct staffing and activities, spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/985445

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – Meeting every Wednesday at noon via Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible. RSVP: Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org to get the Zoom link.

YOUNG ADULTS – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. All are welcome! Volunteers needed! Any ideas for future events? Email them at youngadults@spucc.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's bulletin or Friday email to chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

Verbal announcements are due by Wednesdays at noon.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

ABOUT ST. PAULS
Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ people.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, over the past 178 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org
Pastoral Associate Benny VanDerburgh, bvanderburgh@spucc.org
Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry, emeritushenry@gmail.com

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
Please visit spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 348-3829 www.spucc.org



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.